

Message Text

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65-60

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SY-05 FBIE-00 USSS-00 CPR-01

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 /061 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9684

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, US, VS

SUBJECT: OCCUPATION OF VIETNAMESE CONSULATE GENERAL AND
PERMANENT OBSERVER'S OFFICE.

BEGIN SUMMARY: THIRTEEN YOUNG AMERICANS DESCRIBING SELVES
AS MEMBERS "REVOLUTIONARY STUDENT BRIGADE" OCCUPIED VIET NAM'S
COMBINED CONSULATE GENERAL AND UN PERMANENT OBSERVER'S OFFICE
THREE HOURS AFTERNOON MARCH 27. ABLE POLICE WORK GAINED
RELEASE OF ONLY HOSTAGE. STUDENTS LATER ARRESTED AFTER METAL
DOOR INTO OFFICE PRIED OPEN. WITHIN OFFICE THERE WAS DAMAGE TO FUR-
NITURE AND PAPERS WERE STREWN ABOUT. END SUMMARY.

1. YOUTHFUL, UNARMED, AMERICAN DEMONSTRATORS OCCUPIED VIET
NAM'S COMBINED CONSULATE GENERAL AND UN PERMANENT OBSERVER'S
OFFICE ON FIFTH FLORR OF ALCOA BLDG (866 UN PLAZA) FROM
APPROXIMATELY 1330 UNTIL 1630 HOURS MARCH 27. OCCUPIERS
INCLUDED EIGHT MEN AND FIVE GIRLS. ENTRANCE EFFECTED WHEN ALL
BUT ONE OF STAFF OUT FOR LUNCH. OCCUPIERS, WHO LATER DESCRIBED
SELVES AS MEMBERS "REVOLUTIONARY STUDENT BRIGADE," GOT IN BY RUSE.
SECRETARY MANAGED ESCAPE GRASP OF OCCUPIERS AND FLED INTO
HALL SCREAMING FOR POLICE. HOWEVER, SECOND VIETNAMESE LADY,
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WHO IS VISITING ARTIST NAMED TUYET, WAS UNABLE ESCAPE AND

BECAME HOSTAGE.

2. NEW YORK CITY POLICE SOON ARRIVED TO REINFORCE SEVERAL EPS OFFICERS ON DUTY AT OTHER MISSIONS IN ALCOA BLDG WHO HAD BEEN DRAWN TO SCENE BY SECRETARY'S SCREAMS. PRES AND TV REPS CAME IN LARGE NUMBERS. POLICE SOON BEGAN NEGOTIATIONS FOR RELEASE OF HOSTAGE, WARNING (THROUGH DOOR) OF KIDNAPPING CHARGES IF HOSTAGE NOT FREED IMMEDIATELY. HOSTAGE RELEASED SHORTLY THEREAFTER AT 1430. SHE WAS FRIGHTENED BUT NOT HARMED PHYSICALLY.

3. WHEN OCCUPIERS REFUSED TO COME OUT, POLICE FORCED ENTRY. THEY WERE ARRESTED BY NYC POLICE ON CHARGES CRIMINAL TRESPASSING, RESISTING ARREST, AND CRIMINAL MISCHIEF. THEY WERE LED OUT HANDCUFFED TOGETHER IN GROUPS. AS THEY WENT DOWN HALL TO FREIGHT ELEVATOR AND AWAITING ""BLUE MARIAHS," STUDENTS CHANGED AND WAVED CLENCHED FISTS. CHANTS INCLUDED: "U.S. OUT OF INDOCHINA, ABIDE BY THE AGREEMENTS." "ON, ON, TAKE SAIGON, DOWN WITH U.S. IMPERIALISM". WHEN REPORTER ASKED ABOUT NORTH VIETNAMESE INVASION, STUDENT REPLIED: "IT'S NOT AN INVASION*" ONE TV MAN SAID HE HAD SEEN SAME STUDENTS AT OTHER DEMONSTRATIONS.

4. WITHIN OFFICE, FURNITURE WAS BROKEN, PAPERS STREWN, AND ARTIST TUYET'S WORKS (BASKETS, LAMPSHADES, ETC) SPILLED ABOUT FROM WICKER TRUNKS.

5. AMB NGUYEN HUU CHI MUCH CONCERNED DURING AFTERNOON LEST OCCUPIERS CARRY OFF ANY DOCUMENTS, ESPECIALLY CLASSIFIED ONES. MISOFF ASKED EPS LIEUTENANT TO MAKE SURE THAT STUDENTS WERE CAREFULLY SEARCHED BEFORE BEING TAKEN AWAY. THIS WAS DONE AND NOTHING FOUND.

6. AMB CHI TOLD MISOFF HE WILL REQUEST PERMANENT POST FOR HIS OFFICE. TONIGHT, WITH METAL DOOR BADLY BENT FROM FORCED ENTRY AND UNCLOSABLE, EPS ARE ON STATION.

7. POLICE TOLD MISOFF THAT OCCUPIERS WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO FEDERAL AUTHORITIES FOR PROSECUTION. MISOFF CONGRATULATED THEM ON OUTSTANDING AND RESOURCEFUL FASHION IN WHICH THEY HAD COPEd WITH SITUATION.

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8. DURING AFTERNOON, U.S. MISSION'S DEEPEST REGRETS EXPRESSED TO AMB CHI AND OTHER MEMBERS OF VIETNAMESE STAFF BY MISOFF AT SCENE.

9. IF VIETNAMESE OFFICE REQUESTS A FIXED POST, THIS WOULD REQUIRE EPS SINCE PREMISES ARE ABOVE THE GROUND FLOOR. USUN APPRECIATES EMERGENCY ACTION BY

EPS TODAY AND WE WILL REVIEW SITUATION AND ADVISE WHETHER
FURTHER COVERAGE NECESSARY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, ARRESTS, POLICE PROTECTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USUNN00998
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750108-0420
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975034/aaaaadsc.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <03 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OCCUPATION OF VIETNAMESE CONSULATE GENERAL AND PERMANENT OBSERVER'S OFFICE.
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, US, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006